

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media deregulation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. "Stolen Honor" is not news, and Sinclair's decision to air it is a blatant attempt to influence the presidential election, rather than to inform the electorate in a reasonably objective fashion or provide a full spectrum of opinion. Therefore, Sinclair's decision does not serve the public interest. This type of programming undermines democracy and is a misuse of Sinclair's broadcasting privileges.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen both media regulations and media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.